

## Message Text

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73

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 /063 W

----- 104570

P R 010810Z NOV75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2677

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PK, PFOR, PINT, AF

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO ADDRESSES THE NATION

### SUMMARY

IN A ONE HOUR AND FORTY-FIVE MINUTE URDU ADDRESS TO THE  
NATION TELEVISED LIVE ON OCTOBER 31, PRIME MINISTER  
BHUTTO IN GENERALLY CONCILIATORY AND MODERATE VEIN,NOTED  
SUPREME COURT DECISION ON NAP CASE HAD SIGNALLED END  
OF AN ERA AND CALLED FOR COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION  
WITH THE OPPOSITION, OTHER THAN THOSE WHO ADVOCATED THE  
DESTRUCTION OF PAKISTAN. HE OFFERED TO GO TO KABUL  
TO DISCUSS PAK/AFGHAN RELATIONS WITH  
PRESIDENT DAOUD, BUT SAID HE WILL NOT DISCUSS MATTERS  
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AFFECTING THE INTERNAL POLITICS OF EITHER COUNTRY. HE INDIRECTLY CRITICISED HIS FORMER PUNJABI SUPPORTERS KHAR AND RAMAY FOR RAISING THE ISSUE OF "PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY" AND SAID HE WOULD NOT COUNTENANCE ANY ACTIONS WHICH THREATENED THE INTEGRITY OF PAKISTAN. HE REITERATED HIS PROMISE THAT OPEN AND FREE GENERAL ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD.  
END SUMMARY

1. PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO IN A ONE HOUR AND FORTY-FIVE MINUTE EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEECH IN URDU, ADDRESSED THE NATION IN A LIVE TELEVISION AND RADIO BROADCAST FROM RAWALPINDI EVENING OF OCTOBER 31. ALTHOUGH HE SPOKE FIRMLY ABOUT THE THREAT OF "PAROCHIALISM" AND NOTED THAT THE NAP CASE WOULD NOT BE REOPENED, THE SPEECH WAS GENERALLY MODERATE AND CONCILIATORY IN TONE.

2. BHUTTO BEGAN BY REFERRING TO THE RECENT SUPREME COURT DECISION UPHOLDING THE GOVERNMENT'S BAN ON THE NAP. HE NOTED THAT THE COURT WAS KNOWN FOR ITS INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE AND HAD NOT BEEN INFLUENCED BY THE GOVERNMENT. HE SAID HE WOULD NOT TOLERATE THE COUNTRY'S ENEMIES, BUT AT THE SAME TIME DOORS FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT COULD NOT BE CLOSED. THIS DID NOT MEAN THE NAP LEADERS WOULD BE SET FREE OR THE SUPREME COURT DECISION VIOLATED, HOWEVER, THERE COULD BE A DIALOGUE WITH PERSONS NOT IN JAIL. PAKISTAN WAS AT THE END OF A POLITICAL ERA AND HE HOPED THAT A NEW POLITICAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE OPPOSITION AND THE GOVERNMENT COULD BEGIN. HE HAD ALREADY MET WITH MUFTI MAHMUD AND WILL HOLD FURTHER TALKS WITH THE OPPOSITION. HE THOUGHT THE BOYCOTT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAD BEEN A SERIOUS ERROR, AS HAD UDF SUPPORT FOR THE NAP EVEN AFTER ITS DISSOLUTION IN FEBRUARY, BUT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION SHOULD NOW LOOK TO THE FUTURE.

3. THE PRIME MINISTER WENT ON TO SAY THERE WERE THREE REASONS WHY HE HAD COOPERATED WITH THE NAP AFTER 1971. FIRST, HE WANTED THE NEW CONSTITUTION TO BE ENDORSED BY EVERY PROVINCE AND EVERY POLITICAL PARTY IN THE COUNTRY. SECOND, THE DOMESTIC INSTABILITY IN 1971 MEANT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT A DIVISIVE CONFRONTATION WITH THE NAP HAD TO BE AVOIDED, AND FINALLY HE WANTED TO GIVE THE NAP AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE ITS ASSERTION THAT IT HAD BEEN WRONGLY ACCUSED OF ANTI-NATIONAL ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, NAP ACTIVITIES SINCE 1971 HAD SHOWN, AS THE SUPREME COURT HAS UPHELD, THAT THE PARTY'S AIM WAS THE DISINTEGRATION OF PAKISTAN.

4. DISCUSSING PAK/AFGHAN AFFAIRS, THE PRIME MINISTER INVITED DAOUD TO COME TO PAKISTAN TO OPEN A DIALOGUE FOR IMPROVING RELATIONS. IF DAOUD COULD NOT COME, BHUTTO WAS PREPARED TO LEAVE ALMOST IMMEDIATELY FOR KABUL TO MEET DAOUD. HE APPEALED TO DAOUD TO FORGET THE MISTAKES OF THE PAST SO THE HISTORICAL TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES COULD BE STRENGTHENED. BHUTTO ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH HE WAS READY TO DISCUSS BILATERAL ISSUES WITH THE AFGHAN LEADER, HE WOULD NOT TALK ABOUT ANY MATTERS WHICH AFFECTED THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF EITHER COUNTRY. HE SAID HE COULD NOT FORESEE DISCUSSING WITH DAOUD MATTERS RELATING TO "THE HAZARAS, THE UZBEKS, TURKEMANS OR THE PAKHTOONS." THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT GOA SUPPORT FOR THE NAP LEADERSHIP HAD BEEN A MISTAKE AND HAD ACTUALLY HARMED THE NAP. ALSO, THE GOA SHOULD NOT REACT NEGATIVELY TO THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION SINCE THIS WAS AN INTERNAL POLITICAL MATTER IN WHICH NO FOREIGN POWER COULD INTERFERE. HE DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT IF HIS TALKS WITH DAOUD WERE SUCCESSFUL, HE WOULD HAVE A "LARGE-HEARTED" ATTITUDE IN DEALING WITH THE DETAINED NAP LEADERS.

5. BHUTTO ALSO DEALT WITH THE ISSUE OF PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY RAISED IN THE RECENT LAHORE CAMPAIGN BY G. M. KHAR AND HIS SUPPORTERS. HE NOTED THAT PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY HAD BEEN GUARANTEED UNDER THE CONSTITUTION AND THOSE WHO RAISED SLOGANS CALLING FOR GREATER INDEPENDENCE FROM THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WERE CREATING DANGEROUS PARALLELS WITH 1971, WHEN THE NATION SUFFERED THE LOSS OF EAST PAKISTAN. IN AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO KHAR AND RAMAY, HE ADDED THAT AMBITIOUS YOUNG POLITICIANS SEIZED ON THE THEME OF "PAROCHIALISM" FOR POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY, BUT ALL SHOULD UNDERSTAND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT ANY WEAKENING OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE CONSTITUTION, COULD ONLY LEAD TO THE COUNTRY'S DESTRUCTION. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE HAS BEEN A NATIONAL LEADER AND HAS BEEN SCRUPULOUS IN AVOIDING FAVORITISM TOWARD ANY ONE PROVINCE.

6. THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO REITERATED HIS PROMISE THAT FREE AND OPEN GENERAL ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD AND ANY FEARS THEY WOULD BE POSTPONED WERE GROUNDLESS. BYROADE

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